

3-4-99

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Society is found to be to protective of their children when it is not necessary.

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## SPORTS

Men's basketball team beats Trade Technical by 14 points on Friday.

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## ENTERTAINMENT

Valley orchestra gives a good show Saturday night at the Little Theater.

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# The Los Angeles Valley



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VOLUME 52, ISSUE 4

SERVING VALLEY COLLEGE FOR 50 YEARS

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1999

## CAMPUS SCENE

### VALLEY'S LAIR

There will be an opening ceremony for the Lab for Academic and Instructional Resources on March 4 at 11 a.m. at Lib Res A.

### TESTING

•The test for the math competency requirement for the associate degree will be given on March 4 at 2 p.m.  
•Those that need federal student aid and have no high school diploma or general equivalence diploma need to take an ability to benefit test in order to be able to apply for financial aid. The test will be given on March 9 at 5:30 p.m. The tests will be given in Administration Room 126. Students need to bring a picture identification. No appointments are necessary.

### UNIVERSITY REPS

University representatives will be on campus to meet with students and answer any questions they have about that particular university. Appointments to meet with the representatives need to be made three working days in advance.  
•Cal State University Northridge on March 8  
•University of California Riverside on March 8  
•Cal State University Los Angeles on March 11  
For more information go to Administration Room 126 or call (818) 947-2646.

### NUTRITION

There will be a seminar on "Improving your health through better nutrition" hosted by nutritionist Mike Asili. The seminar will include information regarding the health cycle, how healthy is your diet, nutrition labeling awareness, how to select healthier foods and the importance of vitamins and minerals. The seminar will be on March 9 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Behavioral Science Room 104.

## Union honors Black History

By JORGE GUERRERO  
STAR REPORTER

The Black Student Union held a celebration in honor of Black History Month on Friday in the Theater Arts Building from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. "Everything went good, the audience was unified and uplifted," said Michelle Lester, president of the BSU.

About 100 students attended the event. There was food and entertainment, which consisted of live performances by BSU members and other cultural music performers.

The event began with a speech delivered by BSU member Donald Wesley, 25, where he called for unity among the student body and quoted pieces of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "I have a dream," speech of 1963.

The speech was received by a standing ovation by the crowd, creating the ambience for the rest of the show. Then came a live performance by Steven Learie who mesmerized the crowd with his bilingual rap lyrics.

Lester gave a performance and sang about racial harmony and accepting people of all colors.

"I liked it, it was very powerful," said MaryAnn Margossian, 19, a member of the Armenian Student Association.

Although the theme of the show was Black History, it was extended to include a broader approach on self-empowerment by consciousness and education. One such act was a duet called "Intuition," by Tony B. Conscious and Queen Sistah Charmain, who closed off the show and spoke of Black unity, social injustice, and racism, urging its listeners to become socially aware and eradicating hatred for oneself.

"It was all about promoting unity and letting the people know what the BSU is all about," said Wesley. "And I would like to thank M.E.Ch.A. and C.L.U.E. for their support."

## Handicap ramps installed on campus

By JORGE GUERRERO  
STAR REPORTER

Handicap ramps are being installed all over campus.

"It's about time," said Heber Reyes, 22, a disabled student. "At least now I could go into all the buildings."

Handicapped students now have access to all academic buildings on campus except for the bungalows.

"Before I would have to get together with my counselor to see what classes were accessible and try to work with the teacher to change classrooms," Reyes said.

According to Brick Durley, dean of administrative services, the reconstruction began last fall as the "Handicap Barrier Removal Project." The project was issued by the State Chancellor's office in 1990 under



Dave Mohler works on the finishing touches for the handicap railings.

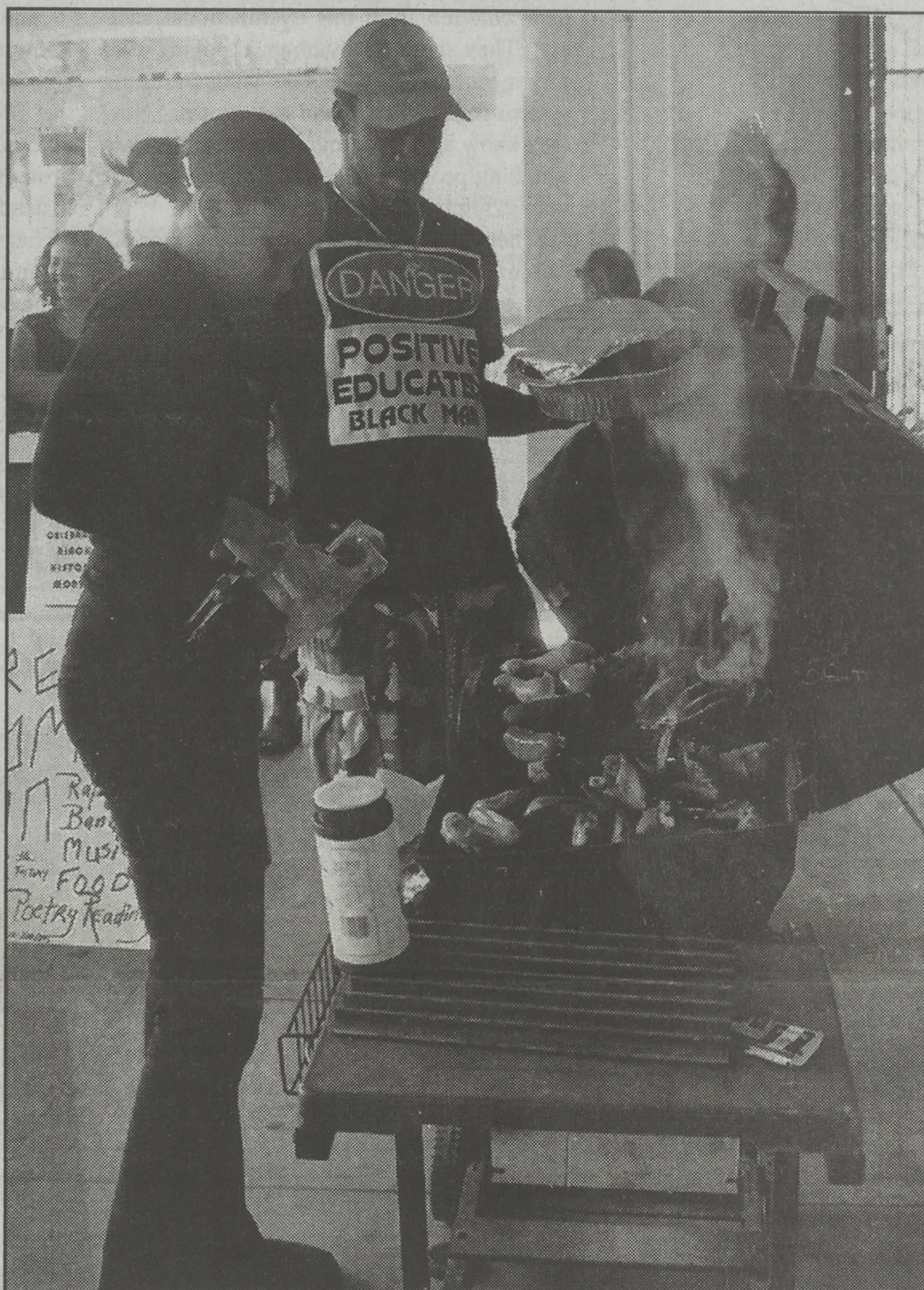
the American Disabilities Act.

The project consists of two phases, the first of which is now completed. That step included setting up ramps and making all buildings accessible.

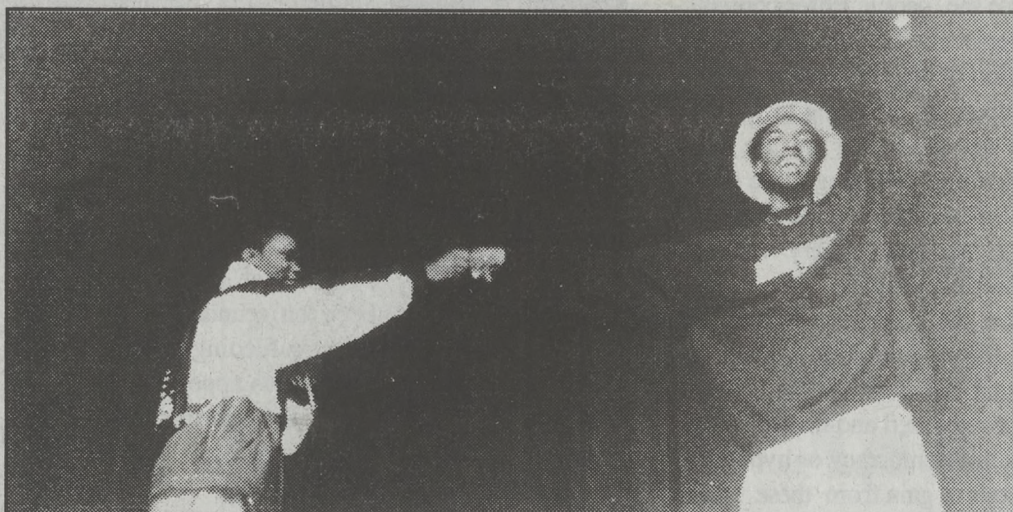
The second phase will consist of retrofitting toilets, modifying doorknobs, and accommodating all restrooms.

"All district campuses received funds for phase one last year," said Durley. "But phase two will not begin until those funds are granted."

Both phases were supposed to be finished by 1995 according to Durley.



BSU members Sherice Payton and DeMarco Kelly Brew prepare the barbecue for the Black History month audience.



Tone Ford and Chad Tatum give Black History Month some spice.

## Woman's day at Valley

By DENNIS SANCHEZ  
STAR REPORTER

Valley College's 1999 Women's History Month Committee has planned events that will begin the celebration of International Women's History month.

An International Woman's Day will be hosted on March 8. The day will begin with Pat Allen, sociology professor, welcoming and holding opening remarks. It will be held in Monarch Hall at 8:45 a.m.

Then a career and information fair will be held at Monarch Square from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Along with the fair there will be various free workshops from 9 a.m. to noon in the Campus Center. Each one will be one hour long dealing with various subjects.

There will also be a luncheon held in the Cafeteria Conference room, honoring Patt Morrison. Who is a Los Angeles Times syndicated columnist and co-host of "Life and Times." The lunch will be from noon to 1 p.m. and tickets are \$8 for general admission and \$5 for students. Tickets can be purchased at the Student Services office.

The events will end with "Oleanna," a play about sexual harassment. The play will be held in Monarch Hall from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

## Job Fair comes to Valley

By NANCY E. BARAHONA  
STAR REPORTER

More than 35 representatives will be at the 20th annual job fair that will be held at Monarch Square from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Students are advised to dress appropriately, bring several copies of their resumes and be prepared to talk to employers about goals and job objectives, according to Hanna Pettersson, director of the cooperative education and job resource center.

Representatives include Amtrak, Camp Hollywoodland and Kaiser Permanente.

Also two career workshops will be held to prepare students for the job fair by showing them how to maximize their potential and professional growth.

•Career Workshop I- Penetrating the hidden job market will be on March 8.

•Career Workshop II- Transitions in going back to school will be on March 10. Both workshops will be from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Cafeteria Conference Room.

## Crime Watch

By JOHN MAROT  
STAR REPORTER

Two officers and a lieutenant have recently joined the ranks of the Valley College division of the Los Angeles Community College Police Department.

Officers Jon Herrington and Chuck Lebern are among the new faces that arrived Monday. Both are retired officers from the Van Nuys Police Department.

Lieutenant Tony Loniero has transferred from Mission College after a ten-year service.

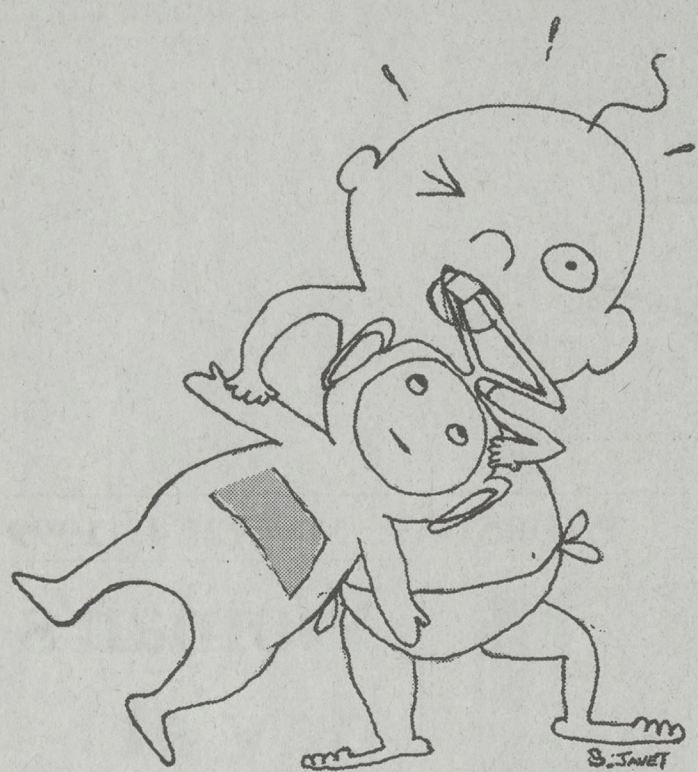
Herrington, a Valley College graduate, said he prefers to work as a campus police officer.

"It's a more personable and friendly atmosphere," he said. Crimes from Feb. 25 to March 3: •Feb. 25

There was a burglary from a car parked in Lot G between 9 and 11 a.m.



# Opinion



Gay symbol?

## War on Drugs a bust

By JORGE GUERRERO  
STAR REPORTER

The war on drugs has had a profound impact on every citizen of the United States.

It's an ongoing battle and millions are spent on drug prevention programs every year. The mass build up of troops at the U.S./Mexico border has resulted in numerous immigrant deaths.

Politicians push for more cops, tougher laws, and longer sentences. Being tough on crime has always been popular with the American public, yet despite all efforts we are plagued by drug-related violence every day.

The influx of narcotics persists, and we pay the price. Remedies only put a Band-Aid on the problem, and its effect on our rights need to be addressed and resolved in mainstream politics. The so-called 'war on drugs' is a war on people, driven by the profiteering elite.

The United States stands for "freedom", "justice", and "equality," yet we have the fastest growing prison population. Amnesty International and other human rights advocates recognize this as invisible racism. The underprivileged are under-represented in the decent job market, and over-represented in our jails and prisons. That in itself eradicates the notion of "liberty and justice for all."

The prison industrial complex is big business. Corporate institutions are under contract to the state, profiting from this mass incarceration. California builds prisons faster than schools, all at the taxpayers

expense. It costs more money to maintain an inmate in a maximum security prison for one year than tuition at a prestigious university for the same period of time.

Most of these inmates are in on drug related charges and may have drug dependencies. But the lack of rehabilitation while incarcerated only contributes to their endless cycle of crime life.

Tougher laws bring longer sentences and less treatment. Recovery is crucial to a drug free environment and should not be excluded. Without treatment many ex-convicts re-enter society and continue their lifestyles of street crime and violence.

Present methods of dealing with the problem are inadequate because the true nature of these issues is being ignored in mainstream politics. If we're going to eliminate street gangs and drug-related violence, we must isolate and identify the problem first.

Putting more police on the streets with their "tough on crime" attitude is obviously not going to end the suppression. And all the while the people suffer consentual persecution allowing the deterioration of our basic human rights.

When are we going to wake up and recognize that we are being fooled into believing these profit-driven lies. The war on drugs is a sham and has a very elaborate agenda of its own.

We, the common working people, the proletariat, who made and sustain this great nation, continue to be exploited and misled.

Is this democracy or hypocrisy? Who is to gain from these atrocities, certainly not me and certainly not you.

### Editorial

## Toys do not corrupt children

We live in a world where sex, drugs, murder and hatred are lurking around every corner. Whether directly or indirectly, we are all affected by these acts of human destruction.

We see it in movies, television, on the news and in the neighborhoods in which we live. There is no escaping it but we do what we can to eliminate it and avoid it. We try to teach our children right from wrong so that hopefully they will be part of the solution rather than the problem. But teaching them the golden rule is no longer enough.

It is a daily struggle for parents to protect their children from this dysfunctional society. They spend many hours watching television each day. Parents demanded a rating system for television and they got it. Now they know ahead of time if their children are watching programming appropriate for their young, impressionable minds.

There are shows like "Bobby's World," "Animaniacs" and "Teletubbies" which provide educational and wholesome programs

for children, so why do we want to corrupt that also?

Recently there was a claim that Tinky Winky, the purple Teletubby was gay. Why? Because he has a triangle on his head and he carries a "purse." So What!? All of the Teletubbies have shapes on their heads, and why is it not acceptable for one of them to carry a bag? Many men and women carry some sort of bag to hold their personal belongings. It does not necessarily mean they are gay, and if they are, what business is it of anyone's?

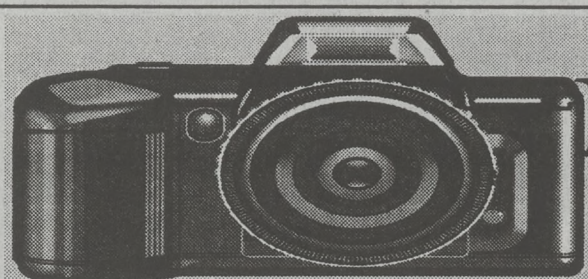
The only way a young child is going to know about different Gay Pride symbols is if someone tells them. Otherwise, a show like the Teletubbies is just a bunch of brightly colored characters singing and dancing and promoting love and kindness toward others, instead of hatred for being "different."

Let them have that. Let them feel good about themselves, even if they are not a carbon copy of their friends and neighbors.

Not too many complaints are heard when a little girl chooses to play rough or play with cars and trucks instead of her dolls, but eyebrows are sure to rise the moment her brother wants to play with her dolls or carry a bag around the house.

If it is not harming the child, he or she should be allowed to play with any toys they like if it makes them happy. They're not secretly thinking, "This is my way of showing mom and dad that I'm gay." Why make a child feel guilty or ashamed simply because of their choice of toys. Besides, if it's true that a person is born gay, there is nothing parents or society can do to reverse the process.

We should be encouraging children to be proud of themselves for who they are, eliminating feelings of self-hatred for being different. The innocence of a child is so very precious. Let them hold on to it as long as possible and let them have their Teletubbies in peace.



## Photo Survey

Who is your favorite television role model?



"Al Pacino. He brings the character out."

-Fabrizio Rivera



"Tim Allen. He solves problems through comedy."

-Oscar Cisneros



"I don't have a role model. I don't really watch TV."

-Patty Torres

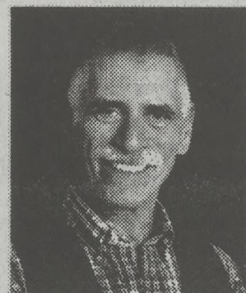


"Tatiana Ali. She's the youngest actress and singer."

-Kimberly Donaldson

### The Senior Freshman

## From "Slick Willie" to Tinky Winky



By JIM CARROZO  
STAR REPORTER

The media has gotten spoiled. For the last year they haven't had to root around for lead stories because they could always do a follow up on "Bill and Paula and Ken and Monica."

Now that we're in between scandals they have to come up with a new feeding frenzy to satisfy the public's voracious appetite.

For now, they're back to reporting the "Celebrity Lite" type of controversies a la Zsa Zsa Gabor and Tanya Harding.

"Jerry Falwell v. The Teletubbies" fills the bill and is the subject of the most recent media orchestration. Falwell and company accuse the baby talking British children's show of providing toddlers with a homosexual role model. His name is Tinky Winky. He's pudgy, purple and perfectly platonic, but he's on Falwell's morality hit list.

Joan Rivers disagrees with Falwell's stand. She says that Tinky Winky couldn't be gay because no self respecting gay guy would ever let his body get that out of shape.

I don't know about that, but if the little tubbie is a threat to your toddler's testosterone because he's purple, (which for some strange reason means he's supposed to be gay), then

Barney better start heading for the hills.

My neighbor's son has a Tinky Winky teething ring. Will chewing on Tinky's triangle make him gay? His father doesn't think so because he himself has found a manly use for the hard plastic triangle. He uses it as bottle opener.

Even so Falwell says where there's smoke there's a "flame" and that Tinky is definitely kinky. He points to Tink's "magic bag" saying it's really a purse. OK so maybe some gays love to accessorize but any fool knows the difference between a purse and a magic bag. Either way it's better than analyzing what kind of stain was on Monica's dress.

It's all hype anyway. During slow periods journalists have to manufacture stories. They draw on everything, from the deep end of the celebrity pool where Simpson dwells, to the shallow end where Rodman-Albert-Tyson types wade, to the good ol' boy political sex deviants on Capitol Hill.

Soon enough we'll turn on the Today Show and overnight, Katie and Matt will have the first report on some new and improved scandal and we'll be off and running once again.

Celebrity agents are probably already pitching their clients to be the next in line to be slimed, knowing how profitable it can be. After all, out of the ashes of every fallen star rises a lucrative cottage industry.

Previously unknown lawyers, gain nation-

al prominence. Comedians and talk show hosts have a continuing premise that feeds itself with new material every day. The literary world arguably suffers, but the publishing world flourishes. Talking heads abound on every TV channel and the celebrities themselves, other than the "deep enders," usually re-surface more popular and in demand than ever. Only last week Tanya Harding was interviewed on the Today Show and then skated for all to see on the Rockefeller Center skating rink.

So lets hope that the Teletubbies stay around just a little while longer. The latest leak is that Tinky Winky got a call from Ginger Spice who suggested he call a press conference and publicly break up with the Tubbies. She also suggested that he attend the Oscars with Dennis Rodman. It would considerably extend the life of the story.

With something as exciting and newsworthy as that on the journalistic horizon I don't see any need to hurry back into "celebrity slaughters and presidential pecadillos." We need a break don't you agree?

Anyway, until the next horribly detailed story of personal degradation surfaces from that great stable of potentially disgusting celebrities, we can relax and enjoy the regular everyday silliness of Falwell fundamentalism. You go girl!

E-mail me at SrFresh@aol.com.

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### For Your Information

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### What's Your Opinion?

The Valley Star would love to receive and, if possible, publish your letters. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 250 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial ethnic, religious, sexist or sexually oriented denigrations. Letters must be signed and include student's ID number. Letters may be left with the Valley Star at BJ 114 by Friday morning for the following Thursday. Letters will also be picked up from our three mailboxes attached to three of our yellow news stands, or e-mail to VSTAR@iaccd.cc.ca.us.



## CAMPUS CALENDAR



(March 8-15)



### MUSIC DEPARTMENT CAMPUS CONCERT SERIES

-Thursday, Mar. 11-

- Blackbird Piano Trio
- Alan Steinberger, piano; Nancy Roth, violin; Mary Anne Steinberger, cello

- At the Music Recital Hall  
- 11 a.m.

-Sunday, Mar. 14-

- LAVC Philharmonic Choir
- "Carmina Burana" (By Carl Orff)

- Nick Strimple, Conductor  
- At the Little Theater  
- 7 p.m.  
- Admission: \$5

-Monday, Mar. 15-

- LAVC Wind Ensemble
- Michael Mertens, director
- At the Little Theater  
- 8 p.m.



### THEATER ARTS PLAY PRODUCTIONS

-Mar. 4, 5, & 6-

- "Beyond Therapy"
- Directed by Ricardo Gutierrez
- At the Horseshoe Theater  
- 8 p.m.
- Admission:  
\$10.00: General Admission  
\$5.00: Students and Seniors

### ASTRONOMY CLUB: Friday, Mar. 12-

- Planetarium Show
- "Stars-What a Way to Go!"
- At the planetarium  
- 8 pm
- Admission:  
\$3.50: General admission  
\$2.50: Senior citizens and students with ASU cards  
\$2.00: Children over 8

## 'Beyond Therapy' takes the stage

By Jim Carrozo  
STAR REPORTER

The Horseshoe Theater presentation of "Beyond Therapy" needed some fine tuning after its opening last Thursday, when the laughs just weren't happening. There are three more performances, tonight, Friday and Saturday and by now many of the kinks have been worked out of this very funny play.

Comedy is difficult and there is no greater frustration for an actor than knowing something is funny and yet the audience doesn't laugh. "Why?" is the question.

The audience listened, but seemed unsure as to how to react, making it necessary for the actors to forge ahead without waiting for the laughs. It was like a slow speed chase where nobody got hurt but nobody got off either. One of the problems was the tendency to rush the action. Another was in playing it too broadly.

Actors cannot serve two masters. They serve only the written word, and truth is their only goal. If they're lucky, the director rides herd on their instinct to forsake reality in favor of parody, and helps them squash their tendency to telegraph every laugh.

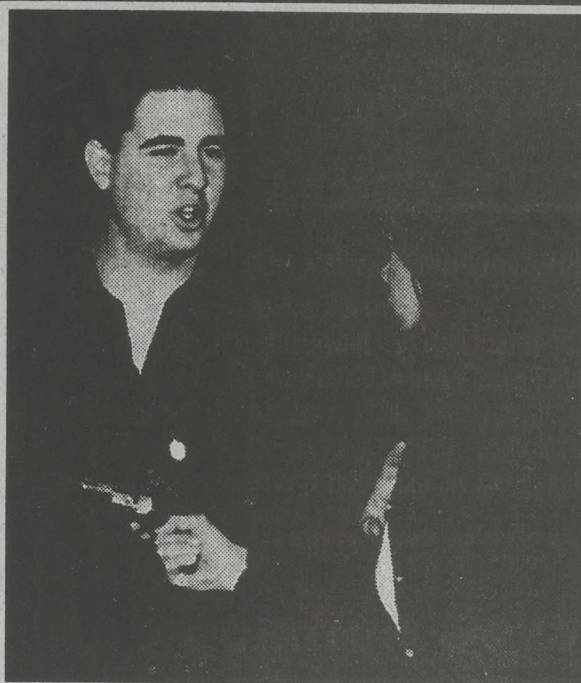
The players often seemed unsure as to which way to go and make choices that

in turn confused the audience. The director and actors must ask themselves if these people are real or grotesque stereotypes not to be taken literally? Make no mistake about it these are tricky roles to play and to direct because so many levels of reality merge within a single portrait.

Sharlene Brown as Charlotte, was the most successful at morphing her character. Her Charlotte doesn't know she's screwed up, so Brown made her quirky but real. Then when she got broad, it had the feeling that she tried but just couldn't contain her passions. The audience responded without confusion and laughed on cue.

Jason Andrade as Stuart on the other hand went from reality to "Toontown," in seven seconds. He telegraphed the laughs so broadly that it was like holding up a sign saying "Laugh." With the surprise element lost, it just wasn't as funny, except to friends of course, which is a trap always to be avoided.

Brent Rosen and Erika Chavarria played Bruce and Prudence. Both of them had good moments together and in ensemble, but tended to deal with



Jose Mancilla / Valley Star

**Brent Rosen and Erika Chavarria play two neurotics in search of a relationship.**

what they didn't understand by moving quickly to the next line.

Daniel Greenberg as Bruce's lover Bob, was more successful. In this hit and miss production he scored pretty high. He would never be cast in this role in the real world, making his effort here all the more impressive.

Mike Thomas plays the waiter Andrew. In the Robert Altman film of the play, it was a much bigger part. Thomas, thankfully underplayed to good effect. Space doesn't permit comment on the technical aspects of the show other than to say that they were mostly smooth. For the remainder of the run, Prudence will be played by Shannon Quaschnick and Charlotte by Christine Iblings.

## Valley Orchestra gives top rate show

By JAVIER MORELOS  
STAR REPORTER

The Valley Symphony Orchestra gave a command performance Saturday night at the Little Theater.

The soft theater lights went dim as Robert Chauls, conductor and Valley music professor, appeared on stage.

The nearly filled theater echoed with applause as the elegantly dressed symphony began to play under Chauls' direction.

The first piece was entitled "The Surrender at Appomattox," composed by Dev Dosaj, the winner of the Valley Symphony's annual competition for area composers.

The piece tells the story of the surrender of General Robert E. Lee and his Confederate

Army to the armies led by Ulysses S. Grant on April 9, 1865.

Their second piece featured the extremely talented cellist Marilyn Harris-Bardet.

She led the symphony with solos in three sets of Antonin Dvorak's Cello Concerto in B Minor.

Following the intermission were operatic excerpts from Mozart's "The Magic Flute" and "The Marriage of Figaro," Charles Gounod's "Faust" and Giuseppe Verdi's "Rigoletto."

Jerusalem-born Julliard graduate Hila Plittmann then appeared on stage and astounded listeners with her mighty soprano voice. Plittmann's talent and vocal range astonished the audience as she sang "Der Holle Rache," an excerpt from Mozart's "The



Jose Mancilla / Valley Star

**The Valley Symphony Orchestra performing at the Little Theater Saturday.**

Magic Flute."

Plittmann was later joined on stage by baritone Ronald Banks. The pair sang a duet from Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro," and Banks later gave an emotionally powerful solo performance as the Count in Mozart's piece.

Both of the singers, the orchestra and the featured guests on stage all had a strong presence that made for an exceptional performance.

The Valley Symphony Orchestra's next performance will be held March 20 at 8 p.m. in the Music Departments Recital Hall.

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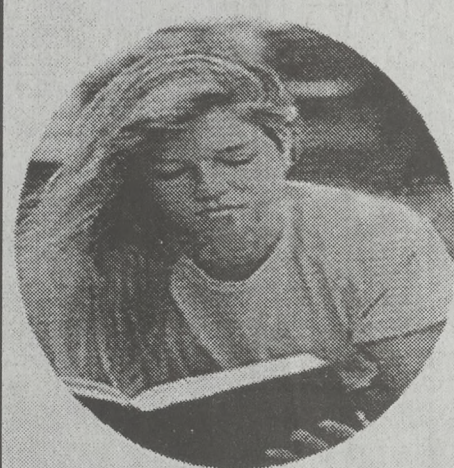
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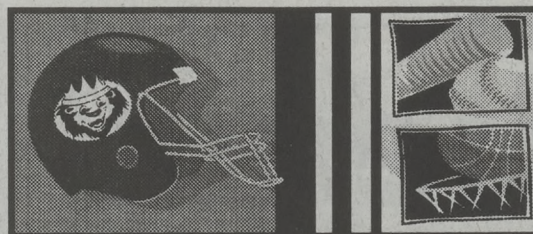
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RESTAURANTS





# Valley beats L.A. Trade Tech

By KARI STROUTH  
STAR REPORTER

The Monarchs men's basketball team butchered Los Angeles Trade Technical in the first game of the playoffs on Friday 72-58.

"They played intensively and attacked the rebounds both offensively and defensively," said coach Doug Michelson.

The Monarchs had 24 turnovers in the game but getting the rebounds enabled them to get possession of the ball.

Michelson said. "We needed the multitude of possessions to neutralize the turnovers," said Michelson. "We won the battle on the backboards."

At half time the score was 30-25 Monarchs and

only 3 fouls to LA Trade Technical's 8. In the second half the Monarchs attacked to score an additional 42 points to their 33.

"We played a great defense, we got the job done," Michelson said.

After the loss to Glendale on Feb. 20, the team was down according to Michelson. "We practiced hard this week and I thought they showed a lot of character tonight," Michelson said.

The Monarchs will go on to play San Jacinto on Wednesday night. The last time the Monarchs played them they lost by 11 Michelson said. If the Monarchs beat them, they advance to the Southern California State Finals on March 6. If the Monarchs lose, they are out of the Finals.

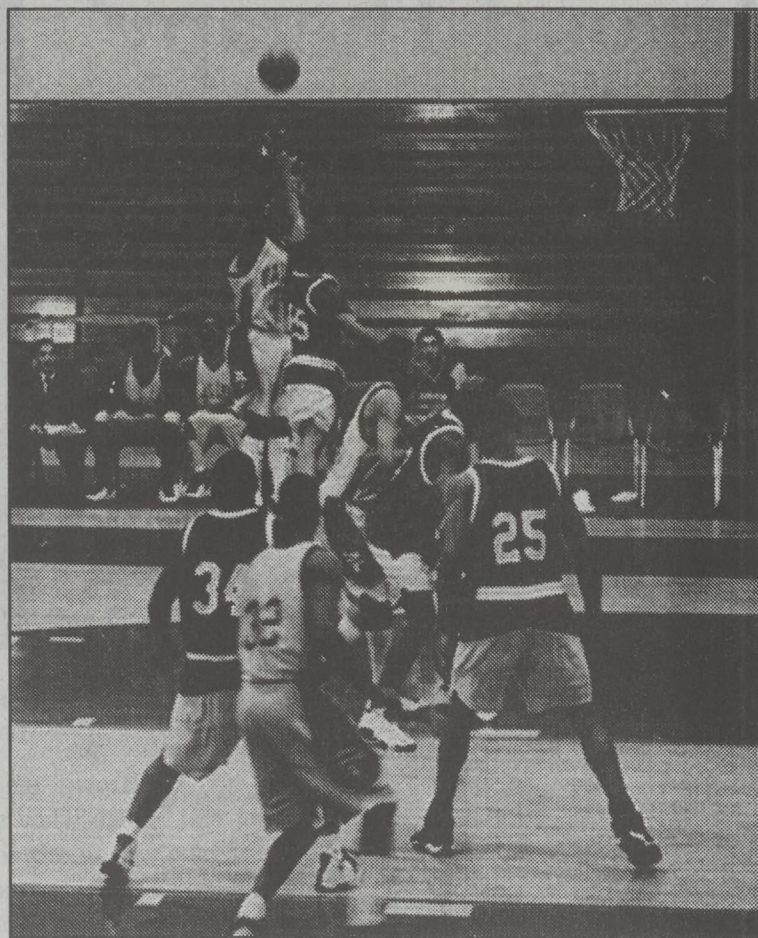


Photo by Steve James

Valley goes for the shot against L.A. Trade Tech Friday.

## Swimmers beat Santa Monica, Diaz' diving makes a splash

By HOLLY CARSON  
STAR REPORTER

As the Valley men and women's swim team routed Santa Monica the crowd, including swimmers, were drawn to the diving of Francisco Diaz.

"We were having a blast cheering for him," Daniel Sandoval, a swimmer on the men's team said. "He is an awesome diver and he just put on a show for us today."

The men's team, with Diaz' diving beat Santa Monica in the shallow pool 68-42.

"Our men's team is really getting in shape and improving their times," Bill Krauss, Valley's swim coach said.

The men are still undefeated at 3-0 this season.

Daniel Sandoval led the Monarchs with wins in the 1000 yard freestyle (11:07.1), 200 yard individual medley (2:13.1) and the 500 freestyle (5:13.4).

Jon Conrad, Hector Zambrano and Baxter Cepeda were also multiple winners for the men.

The Lady-Monarchs dealt with a little closer competition and it was the female divers that made the point difference in the win. "We were lucky to win thanks to our divers," Krauss said.

The Lady-Monarchs improved their record to 2-1.

"Our women improved their times and we had some very fast swims."

Stephanie Hammer won the 100 yard individual medley (1:09.1) and the 100 yard freestyle (:58.1). Lianna Kishimoto and Ramona Friedman were also winners.

The Monarchs will compete at Valley against Ventura on Friday.

## Lady-Monarchs swept in Valley Classic

By ROBERT PATTERSON  
STAR REPORTER

The Lady Monarchs softball team competed at home in the Valley Classic and suffered three losses at the hands of Citrus 3-5, College of the Canyons 3-8 and Pierce 2-7 last weekend.

Although the team lost three big games, coach Jennifer Parker is optimistic about the rest of this season.

"We are getting hits, but they are too spread out," Parker said. "For having only ten players, staying as close as we did is very good."

The team had a lot of hits this weekend, but they are just too far in between.

Both Karla Martinez and Gena Perez of the Lady Monarchs pitching staff are working on their arms to step up their games. The pitching staff is working very hard said coach Parker.

Sandra Cisneros, Shante Brown and Suzi Beck are heading up the offensive team with their batting.

"Now that The Lady Monarch's offensive game is starting to gel, we can expect to see them start to improve their defensive game," said Parker.

## BAXMAN'S COLUMN Marijuana tests for athletes... Why?

By BAXTER CEPEDA  
STAR REPORTER



In no way do I condone the use of any type of drug but I truly do not see the point in athletic programs testing for marijuana.

In a perfect world in which all programs abide by the same rules, I would understand.

My problem is in the fact that the only athletes getting caught are those who are in programs that test.

What about all those kids not getting caught because their coaches don't really care as much as the coaches that do.

All that testing does is set the school up for embarrassment, which hurts with recruiting, which leads to angry alumni, which leads to less money donated to the school, which leads to no sports programs, which leads to student athletes doing even more drugs because they now have nothing to look forward to.

My point is, sports help kids get out of drugs. If we don't allow a kid on a team because he failed a drug test, how is he supposed to use sports as a reason to stop using drugs?

Performance enhancing drugs are a big problem all over the world. They diminish records being that we don't always know whether a person is the fastest or strongest because of their abilities or because of the drugs.

But marijuana?

Show me an athlete that has a physical or mental edge over his opponents because of marijuana. There aren't any.

You may say that these kids are athletes- role models. They have to be more responsible than normal kids.

My question is- Why is it that because athletes are more involved in activities than the average person, they are trusted less?

If we are going to check athletes for marijuana, why not be equal and test kids before they walk into a classroom?

Drugs will always be a problem but we can't keep testing only an unlucky few. We either check everyone or no one. Or spend the money testing for real performance enhancing drugs.

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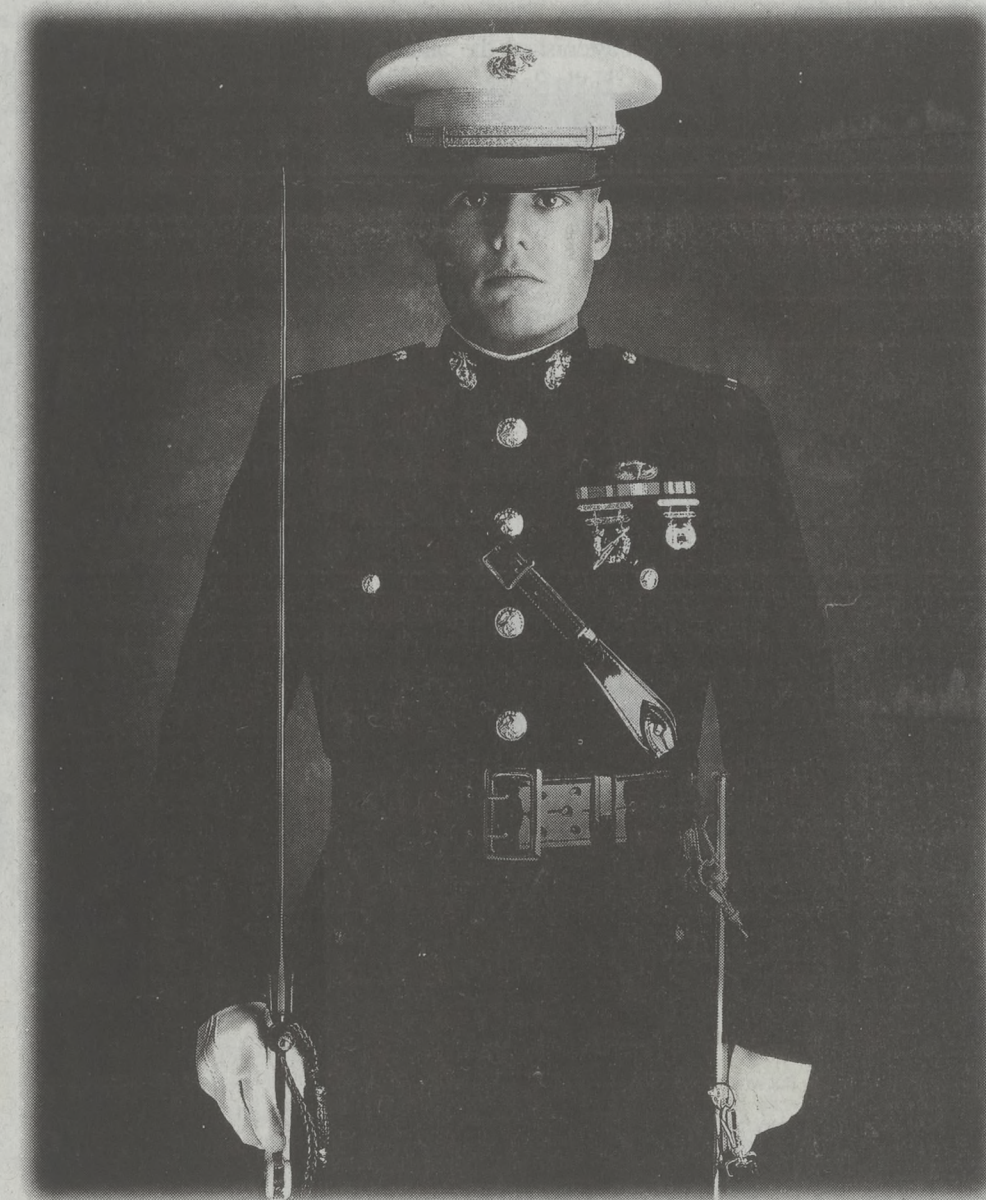
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